



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Exhibit No. 2
3-21-2011
LINDA McCULLOCH
Bill No. HB 530

HB 530: Counties to prepare absentee ballots before Election Day
Senate State Administration, RM 335
March 21, 2011 @ 3 PM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I stand in support of this bill as amended, because it supports the important work of Montana's 56 county Election Administrators.
- Thank you Representative Washburn for bringing this legislation forward, and for taking my concerns into consideration by ensuring counties have **the option** to prepare their absentee ballots early, or wait until Election Day. (page 2, line 19: 'shall' to 'may')
- The bill's other amendment, which provides for rulemaking to establish a uniform procedure to be used for the early preparation of ballots, is appropriate.
 - Our office will have no trouble fulfilling the requirement.
 - (amendment: 1st part House State Admin Comm, page 2, lines 19 and 20; 2nd part House Floor, lines 22-30)
- This is a simple bill. I urge a "yes" vote.
- Thank you for your time this afternoon.